

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of Applicants' claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

The Examiner noted that Applicants have not filed a certified copy of the priority application as required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(b). The certified copy will be filed shortly.

Claims 1 and 3-15 remain in the application. Claim 1 and 3 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled to facilitate prosecution of the instant application.

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on pages 2-4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1 and 7-14 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,116,021 to Schumacher et al. (hereinafter Schumacher) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on pages 4-6 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 4-15 have been rejected as being

fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,983 to Yasui under  
35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The rejections have been noted and the claims have been  
amended in an effort to even more clearly define the  
invention of the instant application. Support for the  
changes is found in the original claims of the instant  
application.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's  
statement in "Allowable Subject Matter" on page 6 of the  
above-identified Office Action that claims 2 and 3 "would be  
allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of  
the limitations of the base claim and any intervening  
claims."

Accordingly, claim 2 has been canceled and the subject matter  
thereof has been added to claim 1. In addition, the subject  
matter of claims 1 and 2 has been added to claim 3. Claims 2  
and 3 now are in independent form and contain the subject  
matter indicated as being allowable.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the  
references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either  
show or suggest the features of claims 1 and 3. Claims 1 and

Appl. No. 10/040,116  
Amdt. dated 3/11/05  
Reply to Office action of February 4, 2005

3 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art.  
The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well  
because they all are ultimately dependent on independent  
claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of  
claims 1 and 3-15 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims  
to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a  
telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can  
be worked out.

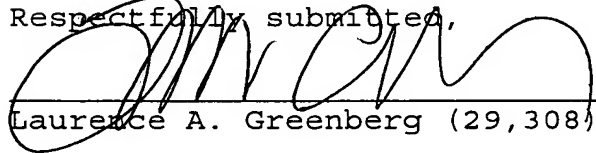
In "Allowable Subject Matter" the Examiner has also stated  
that Applicant is encouraged to submit formal drawings.  
However, the Examiner is requested to review the drawings  
because it is believed that the drawings were formal as  
originally filed.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension  
is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith  
should be charged to the Deposit Account of Lerner and  
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Appl. No. 10/040,116  
Amdt. dated 3/11/05  
Reply to Office action of February 4, 2005

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect  
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner  
and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence A. Greenberg (29,308)

LAG/bb  
March 11, 2005

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.  
P.O. Box 2480  
Hollywood, Florida 33022-2480  
Tel.: (954) 925-1100  
Fax: (954) 925-1101